

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Stafford, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Deputy Treasurer Franzene, Trustees Franzene & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; IC Comm Judd; Residents. Treasurer Nelson, Assr Erhart & ZA Bofinger were absent.

ATTENDEES

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/23/2026 Special Meeting regarding the BHPS Federal Grant/Lien. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/30/2026 Budget Hearing. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to accept the March 2026 Treasurers report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 296,962.81
Sewer Fund:	\$ 72,598.15
Water Fund:	\$ 297,137.56
Road Fund:	\$ 365,608.66

Invoice Approval

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Motion carried.

INVOICE APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd recognized that the county lost a 911 Dispatcher who passed away unexpectedly. / The County put out an RFP for Cooks Run hoping to get a public plan through lease-management. / A new Deputy Prosecutor was hired. / Jackie Judd coordinated an "ice rescue" training at Ice Lake that was successfully well attended.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA Report – Brett stated that round 1 of the Fast Track Grants will be out next month. / There was a job fair for the West Iron County and Forest Park high school students. / He reminded everyone about their newsletter.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assr Erhart was absent. Supervisor Stafford gave her report./ All year end documents were submitted to the county & the state. / Jim Waisanen has updated the GIS based on property boundary changes over the past year and made updates to simple boundary corrections that she identified.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger was absent.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Planning Commission – Supervisor Stafford stated that they are reviewing the last

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Windsor Center– Stafford said it appears that the Windsor Center is waiting on an estimate from Johnson Controls for a new boiler. The traps are supposed to be maintained, and they have not been checked for probably 10 years. / DTE will credit \$200 for each trap replaced.

**WINDSOR
CTR**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated that Judy Hemeleski did an audit and stated that the records were very precise. / The new fund-raising balance is \$321428. / They received a \$1500 donation from Enbridge. / They are discontinuing the bottle collection fund raiser. / They opened their checking account at CoVantage as part of the checklist for the USDA grant. / Anita Furno is a new Director.

BHPS

WIDL – Trustee Adams stated that Monday, April 20th is national library day/month and there will be a celebration including prizes and a scavenger hunt. / The WIDL board meeting is next week, nothing new to report.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated that there was floor tile repair at the school. / Mr. Van Oss found and added two more parcels to the township forestry plan. / The Township applied for the septic permit for the hall project.

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

NEW BUSINESS

Old Lawnmowers – Trustee Franzene made a motion to put two old zero turn lawnmowers out for bids. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**LAWN-
MOWER
BIDS**

Iron County Fair Book Ad– Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the ad in the Iron River Reporter (formerly overseen by the Dickinson Advertiser) for the cost of \$60. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**IC
FAIRBOOK**

ICECA Pledge – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the pledge at \$2763, (same as before). Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

ICECA

Country Mile Document Destruction – Trustee Adams made a motion to give authorization to Clerk Benson-Stafford to arrange for document shredding on an as needed schedule. Supported by Supervisor Stafford. Motion carried.

**DOCUMENT
SHREDDING**

E Waste Collection Day – Bates Twp residents will be welcome to drop off E Waste as a cost of \$2.00/small item and \$4.00/large item on Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00am-12:00 noon. Roadside cleanup day is tabled at this time.

**E WASTE
DAY**

Paint River Dock Panel – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to replace a lost panel at an estimated cost of \$330. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Motion carried.

**PR DOCK
PANEL**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Ernie Schmidt – Asked about the meter that was purchased for hydrants. It was explained that we have Vendors rent the hydrants, this will allow for